NUMB. CCCXCIII.

The SPECTATOR.

Nescio quâ præter solitum dulcedine læti. Virg.

Saturday, May 31. 1712.

Looking over the Letters that have been sent me, I chanced to find the following one, which I received about two Years ago from my ingenious Friend who was then in *Denmark*.

Dear Sir, *Copenhagen, May* 1, 1710.

THE Spring with you has already taken Possession of the Fields and Woods: Now is the Season of Solitude, and of moving Complaints upon trivial Sufferings: Now the Griefs of Lovers begin to flow, and their Wounds to bleed afresh. I too, at this distance from the softer Glimmates, am not without my Discontents at present. You perhaps, may laugh at me for a most Romantick Wretch, when I have disclosed to you the Occasion of my Uneasiness; and yet I cannot help thinking my Unhappiness real, in being confin'd to a Region which is the very Reverse of *Paradise*. The Seasons here are all of them unpleasant, and the Country quite destitute of Rural Charms. I have not heard a Bird sing, nor a Brook murmur, nor a Breeze whisper, neither have I been blest with the sight of a Flowry Meadow, these two Years. Every Wind here is a Tempest, and every Water a turbulent Ocean. I hope, when you read a little, you will not think the Grounds of my Complaint in the least frivolous and unbecoming a Man of serious Thought; since the Love of Woods, of Fields and Flowers, of Rivers and Fountains, seems to be a Passion implanted in our Natures the most early of any, even before the two Sex had a Being.

I am, SIR, &c.

Could I transport my self with a Wish from one Country to another, I should chuse to pass my Winter in *Spain*, my Spring in *Italy*, my Summer in *England*, and my Autumn in *France*. Of all these Seasons there is none that can vie with the Spring for Variety and Delightfulness. It bears the same figure among the Seasons of the Year, that the Morning does among the divisions of the Day, or Youth among the Stages of Life. The *English* Summer is much finer than that of any other Country in *Europe*, upon other account but because it has a greater Resemblance of Spring in it. The Mildness of our Climate, with those frequent Refreshments of Dews and Rains that fall among us, keep up a perpetual Freshness in our Fields, and fill the hottest Months of the Year with a lively Verdure.

At the opening of the Spring, when all Nature begins to recover her self, the same Animal Pleasure which makes the Birds sing, and the whole Creation rejoice, rises very sensibly in the Heart of Man. I know none of the Poets who have observed so well as *Milton* these secret Overflowings of Gladness that diffuse themselves through the Mind of the Beholder, upon surveying the gay Scenes of Nature; he has touch'd upon it twice or thrice in his *Paradise Lost*, and describes it very beautifully under the Name of Vernal Delight in that Passage where he represents the Devil himself as almost sensible of it.

Blossoms and Fruits at once of golden hue
Appear'd, with gay enamel'd colours mixt:
On which the Sun more glad impress'd his beams
Than in fair evening Cloud, or humid bow,
When God hath showred the earth, so lovely seem'd
That Landskip: And of pure now purer air
Meets his approach, and to the heart inspires
Vernal delight and joy able to drive
All sadness but despair, &c.

Many Authors have written on the Vanity of the Creature, and represented the Barrenness of every thing in this World, and its Incapacity of producing any solid or substantial Happiness. As Discourses of this nature are very useful to the Sensual and Voluptuous, those Speculations which shew the bright side of things, and lay forth those innocent Entertainments which are to be met with among the several Objects that encompass us, are no less beneficial to Men of dark and melancholy Tempers. It was for this Reason that I endeavoured to recommend a Chearfulness of Mind in my two last *Saturdays* Papers, and which I would still inculcate, not only from the Consideration of our selves, and of that Being on whom we depend, nor from the general Survey of that Universe in which we are placed at present, but from Reflections on the particular Season in which this Paper is written. The Creation is a perpetual Feast to the Mind of a good Man, every thing he sees chears and delights him; Providence has imprinted so many Smiles on Nature that it is impossible for a Mind which is not sunk in more gross and sensual Delights to take a Survey of them without several secret Sensations of Pleasure. The Psalmist has in several of his divine Poems celebrated those beautiful and agreeable Scenes which make the Heart glad, and produce in it that Vernal Delight which I have before taken Notice of.

Natural Philosophy quickens this Taste of the Creation, and renders it not only pleasing to the Imagination, but to the Understanding. It does not rest in the Murmur of Brooks, and the Melody of Birds, in the Shade of Groves and Woods, or in the Embroidery of Fields and Meadows, but considers the several Ends of Providence which are served by them, and the wonders of Divine Wisdom

which

which appear in them. It heightens the Pleasures of the Eye, and raises such a rational Admiration in the Soul as is little inferiour to Devotion.

It is not in the Power of every one to offer up this kind of Worship to the great Author of Nature, and to indulge these more refined Meditations of Heart, which are doubtless highly acceptable in his sight; I shall therefore conclude this short Essay on that Pleasure which the Mind naturally conceives from the present Season of the Year, by the recommending of a Practice for which every one has sufficient Abilities.

I would have my Readers endeavour to moralize this natural Pleasure of the Soul, and to improve this vernal Delight, as *Milton* calls it, into a Christian Virtue. When we find our selves inspired with this pleasing Instinct, this secret Satisfaction and Complacency, arising from the Beauties of the Creation, let us consider to whom we stand indebted for all these Entertainments of Sense, and who it is that thus opens his Hand and fills the World with Good. The Apostle instructs us to take Advantage of our present Temper of Mind, to graft upon it such a religious Exercise as is particularly conformable to it, by that Precept which advises those who are Sad to pray, and those who are Merry to sing Psalms. The Chearfulness of Heart which springs up in us from the Survey of Nature's Works is an admirable Preparation for Gratitude. The Mind has gone a great way towards Praise and Thanksgiving that is filled with such a secret Gladness: A grateful Reflection on the Supreme Cause who produces it, sanctifies it in the Soul, and gives it its proper Value. Such an habitual Disposition of Mind consecrates every Field and Wood, turns an ordinary Walk into a Morning or Evening Sacrifice, and will improve those transient Gleams of Joy, which naturally brighten up and refresh the Soul on such Occasions, into an inviolable and perpetual State of Bliss and Happiness.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

At the Desire of several Persons of Quality.
For the Benefit of Mrs. Powell.
By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians,

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, on Monday next being the 2d Day of June will be Reviv'd the Tragedy of Oedipus King of Thebes. The part of Oedipus by Mr. Powell, Adrastus Mr. Booth. Creon Mr. Keene, Hæmon Mr. Mills, Tyresias Mr. Bowman, the Citizens by Mr. Pinkethman, Mr. Norris, Mr. Bullock, Mr. Pack and Mr. Leigh. Jocasta by Mrs. Knight, Eurydice by Mrs. Bradshaw: By her Majesty's Command no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

AT the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-Market, this present Saturday, being the 31st of May, will be performed an Opera called Hydaspes. Being the last time of performing it this Seas. Boxes 8s. Pit 5 s. First Gallery 2 s. 6d. Upper Gallery 1 s. 6 d. Boxes upon the Stage half a Guinea. To begin exactly at six. By her Majesty's Command no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes

Just Published,

A very neat Pocket Edition, in two Vols. 12mo. of the Works of Mr. Thomas Otway, containing, Alcibiades, Don Carlos, Titus and Berenice, Friendship in Fashion, Souldiers Fortune in two Parts, Orphan, Caius Marius, and Venice Preserved. With his Poems and Love Letters. To which is added some Account of the Life and Writings of the Author. Printed for J. Tonson at Shakespear's Head in the Strand; and Sold by W. Taylor at the Ship in Pater noster row.

Just Publish'd,

Miscellaneous Poems and Translations. By Mr. Dryden, Mr. Prior, Mr. Smith of Christ-Church Oxon, Mr. Pope, Mr. Benton, Mr. Cromwell, Mr. Broome of St. John's Cambridge. Chaucer's Characters, or the Introduction to the Canterbury Tales. The Miller of Trompington, or the Reve's Tale, from Chaucer. Both by Mr. Betterton. The Rape of the Locke, an Hero-Comical [illegible] Printed for Bernard Lintott, at the Cross Keys between the two Temple Gates in Fleetstreet.

Just Published, A Second Edition of

Four Sermons: I. On the Death of Queen Mary 1694. II. On the Death of the Duke of Glocester 1700. III. On the Death of King William 1701. IV. On the Queen's Accession to the Throne in 1703. With a large Preface. By William Lord Bishop of St. Asaph. Printed for Charles Harper at the Flower-de-luce over against St. Dunstan's Church in Fleetstreet.

Just Publish'd, The Second Edition of

Creation, A Philosophical Poem. Demonstrating the Being and Providence of a God. In Seven Books. By Sir Richard Blackmore, Knt. M. D. and Fellow of the College of Physicians London. Printed for S. Buckley, at the Dolphin in Little Britain and J. Tonson, at Shakespear's Head over against Catherine-street in the Strand.

This Day at the Black Swan without Temple-bar at 8 in the Morning, will begin the Sale of the Library of Mr. Stephen Skinner, late Rector of Bockland in Hartfordshire, and Fellow of Kings College Cambridge, consisting of a Collection of valuable Books in Divinity, History, Classical and Philological Learning, in the Languages Learned and Modern, and of the best Editions and Print, viz. Stephanus, Plantin, Elzivir, &c. Catalogues are to be had at Barkers in Westminster-hall, Mr. Sackoe at the Golden Key near Pudding-ers, Mr. Innys in St. Paul's Church yard, Mr. Sturtes in Ave-Mary-hill, Bookseller, &c. and at the Place of Sale. N. B. Three Lexicons, fair Constantine's Lexicon the best, and many other valuable Books not mentioned in the Catalogue.

This Day is Published,

The History of Ingratitude, or a second Part of Ancient Precedents for Modern Facts, p. 6 d. Sold by J. Baker Pater noster row. Where may be had Truth itself you can find it, &c. by the same Author, pr. 6 d. The History of Prince Mirabel in three parts price 3 s. The Present State of the Parties in Great Britain, price 1 s. Several Tracts for and against Witchcraft, pr. 6 d. each.

On Thursday the 5th of June next, will be exposed to Sale by Inch of Candle, a Parcel of the best Batavia Arrack, Bones and Green Tea, China Plates, &c. by the Oley Flight, part of the Sale will be deliver'd at the Old Bell Tavern Office, and to be shewn from Monday the 2d of June, 'till the Day of Sale.

For SALE by the CANDLE,

On Thursday the 5th of June, at Lloyd's Coffee-House in Lombard street, at 9 in the Forenoon, The entire Cargo (the Ship) The Abraham and Isaac, Henry Wolfe Master, consisting of about 173 Pipes, Hhds, and quarter Casks, of the new White Malmsey Maderas Wines, &c. rich, racy, and curious Flavour, and the best Wines that has been imported Madeira, neat, and not any part sold out of the said Ship landed and now in Cellars at Smarts-Key between Billingsgate the Custom-house. To be seen on Monday the 2d, Tuesday the 3d and Wednesday the 4th of June, from 7 to 1, and from 2 to 5, from 7 to 9 (in the Morning) being the Hour of Sale, on Thursday the 5th as above. Note, the Buyers are desired to appear punctually at the Hour appointed, because the Lotts are very many, to be Sold by Tho. Tomkins, Broker in Seething lane in Tower-street.

Croft Wells. These are to give Notice, that the Cold Sulphur Bathing Well at Croft in Richmondshire in the County of York, is newly fitted and repaired; where by Bathing in the Sulphur Bath, and Drinking the Sulphur Water; and also the Vitriol Nitre Water adjacent thereto, miraculously Cures all these following Ladies, viz. the Cold Palsie, White Leprosie, Ulcers and Scabs, Tumours, Nervous Pains, Deafness in the Limbs, Cramps, Convulsions, Jaundice, Rickets, Timpanies, Loss of Hearing, Stone and Gravel in the Reins, Bladder and Bowels, Stone, Bloody Flux, Surfeits, Crapula's and Athama's, Vomiting, Hypochondriack, Gouty Pains, swell'd Legs after Fevers, Venereal Maladies, opens all Obstructions, helps Coagulations and causes Chearfulness. And convenient Lodgings and Entertainment may be had in the Town of Croft, and adjacent Towns. And Poor Indigent Persons may have the benefit of these Waters without paying any thing for the same, having Certificates under the Hands of the Minister and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish where they live. All the Bowsfield Cures are ready to be Attested and Vouched.

There is lately brought over from Italy a small Quantity of very rich Distilled Waters, made by Trotter the Principal Distiller to his Royal Highness the Duke of Savoy. They are all put into Chests, each of which contains 24 Bottles (12 Pint Quart) and consists of the 3 following Select Sorts, viz. Citron, Orangiate, Bergamot, and Perfico, they are all of a double Strength and distilled in the same manner as the Citron Waters of Barbadoes and of the same Strength, yet they are much pleasanter, and less than a third of the Price. They are really true and genuine as they are imported, and may be seen and tasted every Day at Mr. Pond's at the three Flower-de Luces next Door to Northumberland House near Charing-Cross; where they are sold in order for a speedy Sale only at 3 Guineas per Chest. N. B. There has been none of them in England, unless in Presents, these 5 Years past.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in, as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.